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# The Highlander

Thursday **December 12 2024** | Issue 670

**INSIDE: THE NUTCRACKER PG 9**

**FREE**

## Better not pout

Callum McGee is all smiles after finding out he made the nice list during the annual Breakfast with Santa at YMCA Wanakita Dec. 7. More photos on page 13.  
*Photo by Justin Belanger.*



## Dog sanctuary 'bursting at the seams'

**By Mike Baker**

While some in the County have already started easing back with holiday season around the corner, Kristyn Begbie has been working around the clock to ensure her dog rescue operation, Snowflake Meadows, stays on its paws.

As the only recognized shelter in the Highlands, Begbie accepts stray dogs, escaped pets, and animals people no longer want, or can appropriately care for.

It's been eight years since she set up shop

in Minden, with a facility at 1089 Ritchie Falls Rd., and Begbie said the issue of people abandoning pets is at an all-time high. She took in 47 dogs in 31 days in October, with a further 12 in November. Through 2024, she estimates seeing approximately 200 dogs.

It's a far cry from the one dog she was processing monthly when she first started in 2016.

"I've become more and more busy as time has gone on and word has gotten out, but it was COVID when things really ramped up," Begbie said. "In 2020, everybody

wanted a dog. Shelters were empty, rescues were empty. I think people wanted something to do while they were home... then as everybody started going back to work, suddenly nobody wanted their dogs anymore."

Many of the dogs she's seen come through her doors were untrained – owners complained about their pet destroying furniture while alone, defecating in the house, even ripping up flooring. Most put it down to bad behaviour, but Begbie said it was more likely separation anxiety brought

on by sudden and consistent departures.

The significant public demand for four-legged companions exacerbated the problem, Begbie said – there was a major increase in backyard breeding. And with most veterinary practices stopping spaying and neutering through the pandemic, many households were treated to accidental puppy litters.

In recent months, Begbie has processed a litter of eight kangal shepherds, nine border collies, a mixed-breed mother with five puppies, and, most recently, a group of seven

Continued 'Ignorance' on page 2

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# 'Ignorance' about breeding an issue

Continued from page 1

boxers found roaming Trappers Trail in Haliburton. She was on-scene for that situation, helping to collect the dogs before taking them home.

When a new animal arrives, Begbie said she'll conduct an initial assessment. If the dog is a stray, it must be isolated, dewormed, and treated for parasites before it can be around other animals. She'll arrange for the dog to be vaccinated and then works alongside Leah Bull of Snoop Dawg K9 Training to work on social skills. She likes to have animals for two-to-three weeks before moving them into a foster home – someone local who can care for the dog, take it to appointments, and help with training.

Begbie makes sure all animals are spayed or neutered before putting them up for adoption. Puppies will generally be in her care for up to three months, but it can take older dogs more than a year to be re-housed.

It's a huge financial undertaking – food alone is \$79 to \$120 per bag, with each dog eating about a bag-and-a-half per month, while medication and vet costs are typically around \$1,100 per animal. Begbie recoups \$850 through her adoption fees but relies on the community to balance the books.

Up to Dec. 1, she said the shelter has incurred costs of \$149,447 for basic day-to-day, vet and emergency expenses this year.

## Other options

Prior to Begbie's launch, Susan Peel operated an emergency rescue for 10 years at her Paws at Killara Station facility in Minden. At her busiest, the most dogs she ever would have had at one time was eight, Peel said. This was pre-2016.

"My heart just goes out to Kristyn – she's being terribly overrun. I think things are at a dangerous place in the County," Peel said.

Paws is a recognized dog boarding, training and daycare facility – and, in June, Peel signed an agreement with Algonquin Highlands to serve as the township's municipal pound. She's working on a similar arrangement with Minden Hills and hopes to work with Dysart et al too.

It's a totally different service, rather than a support for Begbie, Peel said.

"She is having people dropping dogs off not because someone found them, but because the owners don't want the dogs anymore, or they can't manage them – that's the difference between a pound and a rescue," Peel said.

She's been unofficially doing it for years – bylaw officers will pick the animals up and take them to Peel, where she holds them for up to four days. Most of the time, pets are reunited with owners, but in the odd case they're not, she sends them to Snowflake Meadows.

There's no humane society in the Highlands, with the closest SPCAs in Bracebridge, Bancroft and Bobcaygeon. Due to its proximity to Bancroft, Highlands East uses the SPCA there for pound services.



Kristyn Begbie has been running her dog rescue operation Snowflake Meadows since 2018. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

## Paving a path

In terms of solutions, Peel feels the onus falls on breeders and pet stores to properly and thoroughly vet would-be buyers before allowing them to buy a dog. She also advised people to desex their pets to make sure there are no unexpected surprises.

"In most cases it is ignorance – people don't think their six-month-old puppy will breed with their brother. Well, the dogs don't see it that way. And that just adds to the problem we have, which is just too many dogs," Peel said. "People who are breeding because they think they can make a ton of money – it's not COVID anymore. A lot of these pets are being abandoned because [people can't sell them]."

Peel said she hopes to work more closely with Begbie in future, seeing the pound and rescue working hand-in-hand to keep dogs off the streets.

A self-professed animal lover, Begbie said she doesn't foresee a time when her services won't be required in the County. Despite all the stress and financial pressure, she has no plans to walk away.

"I could never just turn a blind eye – my answer will always be yes," Begbie said. "Unfortunately, it's a sad world we live in right now. Shelters can't say no to dogs, so if a stray turns up needing space, the dog that's been there the longest is being euthanized to create a space. I was rescuing [dogs from the city] for a long time, now I'm just doing what I can to make sure animals in the County have somewhere to go."

An online auction raising funds for the rescue is running on Facebook until Dec. 14, search 'Snowflake Meadows Christmas Auction'.

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# Burton takes warden's chair for 2025

By Lisa Gervais

Highlands East mayor Dave Burton said he was “truly humbled” to be elected warden of Haliburton County for 2025.

Burton beat Minden Hills mayor Bob Carter in an election Dec. 10.

After accepting the ceremonial robe and chain from outgoing warden Liz Danielsen, who'd held the position for six years, Burton thanked those councillors who'd elected him for their support and dedication in making the position possible for him. The vote is done behind closed doors.

Burton also thanked Danielsen “for her work over the years. I've had a pretty good time being your deputy for three of those years.”

He extended gratitude to his wife, Jane, and his family. “Without them and their love and support I couldn't do the things I do and certainly do appreciate it.”

In outlining his priorities, Burton told County staff and visitors in the council chambers, “it's important to make the foundation of our County as solid as the Canadian Shield we sit on. Haliburton County is a great community and I will work

towards that.”

Earlier in the meeting, he “honoured our County's unwavering spirit, commitment, aspirations, and enthusiasm. I see the results of our early mornings and our late nights and our sacrifices to prevail on the issues that we have overcome.”

He said as warden, he would focus on challenges, and help solve situations.

“My commitment will be to create a more efficient County, and with the support [of council] I know this goal will be possible.”

He said after reading the latest Census, he knows Haliburton County's full-time and seasonal population will continue to grow over the next decade, creating development pressures.

“We must consider enhancing community services and regulations while maintaining our identity. And one way to do this might be to align some of our bylaws and our building codes from the lower-tier.”

He said he will look to create “holistic” solutions to address multiple aspects of rural life: sustainable development; providing affordable housing with environmental protection; investment in education, skills training, “and we'll offer vocational courses



Highlands East mayor Dave Burton was elected County warden for 2025. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

in higher education opportunities, enabling residents to serve with higher paying jobs.”

He added he will ensure lobbying for additional funds for the County.

He said his new job is not without challenges, but “I'm happy to have the opportunity to serve and help our community.”

Serving his fifth term on Highlands

East council, Burton served six years on Oro-Medonte; has been a warden before, and chair of the Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus', Eastern Ontario Regional Network and Good Roads. He was self-employed (water well drilling) most of his working life. He also sold bottled water. He's a former volunteer firefighter.

## Danielsen says six-year run 'rather extraordinary'

By Lisa Gervais

Outgoing County warden Liz Danielsen says given a choice she'd be warden for life, but realizes other members of council must be afforded the opportunity.

After six years as the political head of the County of Haliburton, Danielsen nominated Highlands East mayor Dave Burton to be her replacement earlier this month.

And while she will miss being in charge, she won't miss the extra work that has come with the job, and relishes the opportunity to put more of a focus on some of her other duties, such as being a member of the Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) board of directors.

And then there's prioritizing being mayor of Algonquin Highlands. “We have some serious challenges in Algonquin Highlands.”

Danielsen has made history in being warden six consecutive years – albeit two of those came from her name being drawn from a hat after a tie.

“I'm really honoured to have held that position, and for the length of time that I've held it,” Danielsen said in a recent interview. “It's really rather extraordinary, and twice my name was drawn out of a hat which is pretty unique.”

She said the role had been fulfilling, and she had worked with “wonderful” staff, including former CAO Mike Rutter and current CAO Gary Dyke.

“It's a lot of work,” she said of being warden, a mayor, and a member of numerous boards.

Her tenure spanned COVID and the changing of a CAO. Throughout, Danielsen campaigned on continuity.

“It's not that I will miss the responsibility;

it's the workload. I take it seriously and Gary stays in constant contact. There's a lot of work and I could stand the break.”

As for accomplishments, she puts the shoreline preservation bylaw and the short-term rental bylaw at the top of the list.

“Shoreline preservation was really important to me. If we don't have the health of the lakes, we don't have Haliburton County. It's such a beautiful place to live; it offers so much to us.”

She added going from the shoreline preservation bylaw to the short-term rental one, “was like jumping from the frying pan into the fire because they've really been hot topics. They've been challenged. They've been challenging. They're achieved for the most part. We are starting to take applications for short-term rentals.”

She said at a recent Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus meeting, municipalities

further ahead with STR bylaws said people are understanding and accepting of it, “and hopefully we have the same result here.”

As for a file she would have liked to see more action on, Danielsen cites, “strengthening our position on shared services, on service delivery. I think we have a lot of work that we can do there and I'm really disappointed we haven't made more progress in that regard.

“It's streamlining, making rules the same from one side of the lake to the other, helping people understand what the rules in Haliburton County really are. We don't need five sets of rules. I'd like us to make some progress in that regard. I really do hope we can make some strides there.”

Other than that, she would like to see a Haliburton County and area watershed group, and “some greater strength in economic development.”



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# Womens' group remembers Montreal victims

By Mike Baker

Nora Stewart was about a decade into her career as a civil engineer when, on Dec. 6, 1989, a lone gunman killed 13 female university students and a finance clerk at Ecole Polytechnique de Montreal in what remains one of the deadliest acts of femicide in Canadian history.

Thirty-five years later and the heartache and sorrow Stewart felt for the young victims, aged 20 to 31, came flooding back last week when, on the morning of the anniversary, the Canadian Federation of University Women Haliburton Highlands (CFUW) held a commemorative vigil inside the Haliburton Sculpture Forest.

The first-of-its kind event drew 19 attendees.

“We passed out cards that had a photograph of each of the 14 women who died, the year they were born, and what they were studying at university – they were mostly engineering students just like me,” said Stewart. “We had different people read out their names and then we hung their cards on a tree in the forest.”

The group formed a circle and listened to the song *Montreal, December '89* by Australian singer Judy Small.

“It was very moving,” Stewart said.

The idea, she added, was to bring more awareness to violence against women. At a recent CFUW meeting, members heard from a representative from the YWCA Peterborough Haliburton who spoke at length about the myriad of services provided across the region – with demand for support at an all-time high.

Coinciding with the global ‘16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence’ campaign that ran Nov. 25 to Dec. 10, Stewart said she felt this was the right time to bring an event to Haliburton County.

“I graduated in 1976 – back then there were very few women in engineering,” Stewart said, noting she was one of four in her class of 100 students. “My sense is we were making great progress and great strides, because the number of women coming into



Nineteen people attended a vigil in Haliburton Dec. 6 marking the 35th anniversary of the ‘Montreal Massacre’. *Submitted.*

engineering was increasing every year.

“When this femicide took place, it was devastating. It was shocking. It hit us hard – myself personally, and by extension my family,” she added.

It was confirmed after the shooting that the perpetrator, 25-year-old Marc Lepine, had deliberately targeted females – separating them from male students and saying he was fighting feminism before opening fire.

In the years since, Dec. 6 has been recognized as the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women in Canada.

Stewart spent 40 years participating in

vigils and awareness campaigns in Calgary before relocating to the Highlands in 2022. Born and raised in Toronto, she remembers spending summers at the family cottage in Haliburton. It was an annual tradition before the move was made permanent two years ago.

It was during a walk in Glebe Park that Stewart learned about the Highlands’ CFUW chapter.

“Each year for the past five years, the ladies have decorated a tree inside the Sculpture Forest for Christmas. On the tree, we hang invitations to women, describing what CFUW is. It’s a way of reaching out to find

new people – that’s what roped me in,” she said.

The group boasts 107 members and is open to any woman who supports the club’s goals of community betterment and activism, regardless of whether she has a university degree.

Stewart said she plans to make the vigil an annual occurrence.

“Next year we’d like to get more of the community involved, educate people about what this date means and why it’s important to remember [the women who died],” Stewart said. “Because the violence hasn’t stopped.”

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#### COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. Meetings begin at 9:00 am unless otherwise noted.

The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

- December 12 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link on the Township CivicWeb Portal. **Please note there is only one meeting in December.**

#### SG NESBITT MEMORIAL ARENA

The Minden Hills Winter Program Guide is on our website! It has all the info you need on winter registered and drop-in programs, including the winter break drop-in schedule.

#### AGNES JAMIESON GALLERY

Artwork from the permanent collection, featuring André Lapine (1866-1952) as well as new acquisitions, are now on display in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery. The Gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am – 4 pm. Admission is by donation.

#### UPCOMING MUNICIPAL HOLIDAY HOURS

##### **Municipal/Public Works/Fire Department Administration Offices**

Dec 24th 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

CLOSED Dec 25th - Jan 1st

##### **Cultural Centre/Agnes Jamieson Gallery**

CLOSED Dec 24th - Jan 1st

##### **Waste Disposal Sites**

All Sites are CLOSED Dec 25th & Jan 1st

Sites will operate on regular winter hours all other days.

##### **SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena and Community Centre**

Dec 24th 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Dec 31st 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

CLOSED Dec 25th, 26th & Jan 1st

#### SAFE WINTER DRIVING

The safest place is behind the plow. Wait for plows to pull over before passing. Don't accelerate too quickly - the road ahead is unplowed and could be slick or snowy. Avoid parking in the street. Plows can't clear roads that are blocked by parked cars.

#### HOLIDAY RECYCLING TIPS

- Aluminum foil and trays, plastic containers, and metal cans go in with your containers recycling
- Paper gift bags, cardboard rolls, and Christmas cards can go with your paper recycling
- Foil wrapping paper, ribbons, tinsel, bows, plastic toy packaging all go in with your household garbage
- Lighting material can be recycled at the Scotch Line Landfill (fluorescents, bulbs, Christmas lights etc.)

#### A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

A blocked external exhaust vent can cause the Carbon-Monoxide (CO) emitted by fuel-burning appliances to build up in the home, posing a significant safety hazard. When clearing snow around your property, give your exhaust vents a check.



# Government commits \$10M to health merger

By Mike Baker

The Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit (HKPR) is moving ahead with a voluntary merger with Peterborough Public Health effective Jan. 1, 2025, with the Ontario government committing \$10.1 million to support the partnership.

HKPR board members voted 5-2 in favour of the merger Dec. 6. Highlands East deputy mayor Cec Ryall, the County representative on the HKPR board, feels the move was inevitable given the health unit's precarious financial situation.

"We were in a position where we had to make a choice between a rock and a hard place... I'm truly concerned there wouldn't have been enough resources to keep HKPR functioning as it should. Where would we be in 2025, 2026, or 2027? If you think we can live on a one per cent increase, with the cost of living as it is right now, it's just not feasible. It can't be done... without service reductions or massive increases to municipalities."

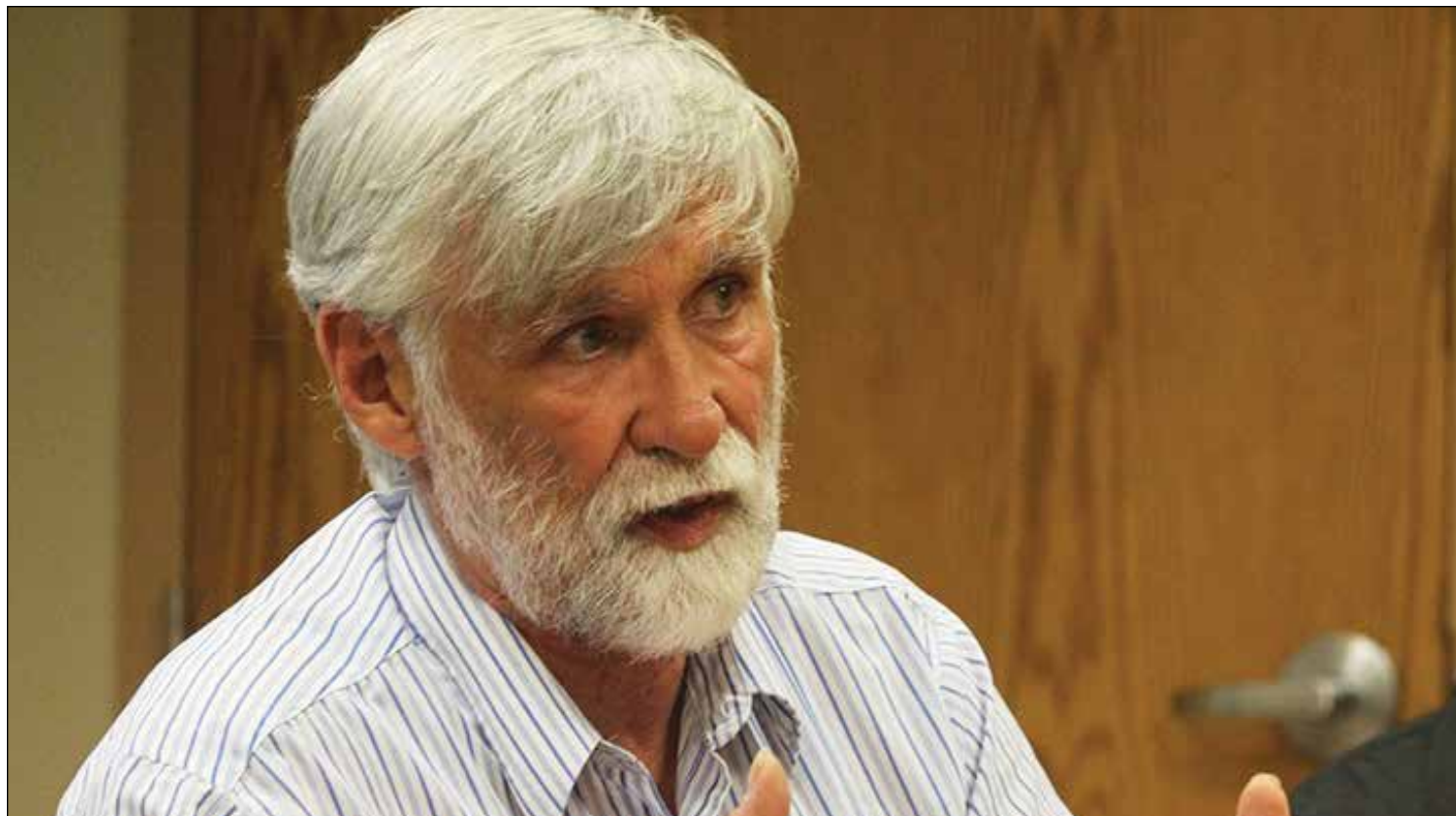
During 2025 budget deliberations last month, Dr. Natalie Bocking, HKPR medical officer of health, said the health unit is projecting to finish the 2024/25 fiscal year with a \$188,476 shortfall. She said funding increases from the Ministry of Health, capped at one per cent for the next three years, aren't enough to maintain current service levels.

When pushed by Ryall on how the health unit would navigate such minor funding improvements in the face of increased cost of living and new contracts for unionized staff, Bocking admitted it would be problematic.

"It means our total budget will stagnate... our headcount will slowly go down. It will impact our ability to provide the same level of programs and services," she said.

The health unit has culled six full-time positions over the past three years due to budget issues. Bocking earned \$327,346 in 2023.

Bocking said the province has committed \$10,129,450 to HKPR and PPH to cover all merger-related expenses during the 2025/26 fiscal year. Money can also be used for capital improvements and program stabilization. She said that will help cover pressures in areas such as nutrition, student/school health, and the vaccine and preventable diseases program.



Cec Ryall, the County representative on the HKPR health unit board, believes a merger with Peterborough Public Health is positive. *File.*

Bocking recommended joining with PPH, as she did in February when the HKPR board initially supported the merger.

"My opinion is rooted in what I believe will provide the best level of public health capacity to our residents," Bocking said.

Ryall voted alongside Dan Joyce, Bob Crate, John Logel and Olena Hankivsky in approving the merger, with Tracy Richardson – Kawartha Lakes' deputy mayor – and David Marshall against, saying there's "too much uncertainty."

HKPR communications lead, Ashley Beaulac, said a new organizational structure and leadership team for the merged units will be announced in the new year. Both Bocking and Dr. Thomas Piggot, PPH medical officer of health (who made \$302,532 in 2023), indicated a willingness to work within the new structure when the merger was proposed in February. Both units will remain functional, with no immediate impact on programs and services, Beaulac said.

A combined 2025 budget will be prepared once the new board meets.

## What does it all mean?

Ryall said most people won't notice much of a difference once the merger is finalized in the new year.

"It's being done more so for the infrastructure and to have more resources to perform what we're already doing now. There's going to be a lot of people thinking this is not a good idea... but our public health units are in trouble," Ryall said.

He said a new name and brand will be unveiled early in the new year, while he also expects the new unit will establish its headquarters closer to Haliburton County. The HKPR head office is in Port Hope, with satellite offices in Lindsay and Haliburton.

Public health units deliver a wide range of services to the public including immunization clinics, early childhood programs, sexual health clinics, water quality testing, and food and nutrition training, while offering support in mental health, harm reduction, pregnancy and parenting.

A conjoined board of HKPR and PPH will

include nine municipal representatives – one from the County, two from Northumberland, two from Kawartha Lakes, two from Peterborough County, and two from the City of Peterborough. There will also be one sitting member from Curve Lake First Nation and Hiawatha First Nation.

He admitted "it's a bit of an unknown" working with new faces from PPH, but Ryall is clinging to hope that this merger will be a positive for all involved.

"At the very least, we hope this will stop service reductions and staffing issues... I'm very optimistic we're going to come out of this as a better unit. I think the people of Haliburton County will be better off," Ryall said. "People are going to have to be patient – the merger won't happen instantaneously. How much will be visible in the first quarter? It's hard to say. But I'm sure by the end of 2025, you'll start to see the external changes. The big thing we have to do is get staff reorganized... so everyone is ready to hit the ground running."



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# Summer ice continuing in Minden Hills

By Lisa Gervais

Haliburton County Huskies representatives made their plea for maintaining summer ice at S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena during a Nov. 28 Minden Hills council meeting.

During 2024 budget deliberations, council directed staff to provide a review of summer ice usage for the 2023 and 2024 seasons. The township removes ice in mid-May to the end of June for annual maintenance of the ice plant, and ice is rebuilt at the beginning of July, slated to be available July 22, 2025.

Huskies' owner Paul Wilson said his general manager and coach, Ryan Ramsay, runs a two-week hockey camp in summer for 110 mostly local players.

In addition, Wilson said the Huskies operate their rookie camp in May. "Ninety kids paying \$375 each. We need that ice in May."

Wilson added, "I know that some of you are not really hockey fans but many people in the community are thrilled that a small town like Minden is able to support a Junior A Hockey League team. Evidence of that? We sold 325 season tickets this year and every year we've sold that many. This year, we've received over \$150,000 in sponsorships from the local community." He added that paid

attendance is 400 to 500 per home game.

He said despite this, the club loses money and he has to chip in. But "removing \$10,000 to \$20,000 from our income source by eliminating summer ice for the rookie camp, I'll probably have to sell the team."

Owen Flood, an assistant coach with the Huskies, who owns APE training, said he moved his business to Minden to grow it.

"One thing slowing me down is the summer ice issue. I currently go to Haliburton to get summer ice, which, with only having one arena, is hard to get the ice time I require to do everything."

Flood trains about 80 hockey players in the summer and said Dallas Stars forward, Matt Duchene, also uses the ice for summer training. He'd like to run and grow his programs in Minden. He estimated he spends about \$10,000 on summer ice rentals in Haliburton.

Director of community services, Candace McGuigan, said when introducing new programs and services, such as summer ice rental programs, three to four years is required to build up the programming and understand the true costs, revenue streams and community and user group requirements. She noted summer ice in 2023 and 2024

"have been in the net positive revenue position." Net revenue was \$8,366 in 2023 and \$12,642 in 2024.

McGuigan added, "in addition to the current summer ice users, the township is receiving new inquiries for summer 2025 and anticipates an increase in net ice revenue and further growth to ice rental programming. User groups are planning their 2025 and 2026 seasons, including their summer 2025 training and program locations. For these groups, it is important to have summer ice available at S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena."

## Councillors divided

Deputy mayor Lisa Schell said when they designed and built the arena, they wanted an NHL-sized rink and intended to have summer ice. Schell said they need to continue to give staff a chance to see if it works.

Coun. Bob Sisson said there were other expenditures besides electricity, such as staff, propane for the Zamboni, and other hidden costs. He said other township operations are suffering due to the amount of money being spent at the Minden recreation centre.

Director of finance, Wendelin Loneragan

said she backed the staff's report.

Coun. Tammy McKelvey said she was a Huskies supporter, and acknowledged the economic impact for Minden, but "we're tasked with trying to come up with a balanced budget, and it's costing us over \$2 million to operate that facility. We can't look at anything in isolation. This is not an anti-Huskies thing. We're dealing with a budget in which 19 per cent of our tax levy is going to that facility."

Coun. Pam Sayne said, "it's a little too late now to go back and say 'we're not going to do this anymore'. That building is not going to disappear. It's a huge asset to us and we've got to take full advantage of this. And we have to find ways to bring this in to support the rest of the community."

Mayor Bob Carter added, "if we are not losing money on this, this is something we should at least attempt to see if this is something worthwhile for us to be doing. We have to give it a shot."

Council voted to maintain summer ice for 2025, and look to boost revenue.

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# Dysart wants to demolish Wig

By Mike Baker

Dysart et al has applied for a special exemption through the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) to take over demolition of the Wigamog Inn property.

The township's chief building official, Karl Korpela, said staff discussed the situation with MECP officials Nov. 25. Tear down of the main lodge structure and 36 accessory buildings began in April 2023, with property owners, Aurora Group, handling the project. Workers demolished about a dozen smaller out buildings before the ministry shut things down in June, following reports of at-risk species – endangered bats and the eastern hog-nosed snake, being found on-site.

The township engaged with MECP earlier this year, wanting to know if there was any way to speed up the project.

"There is an exemption we can apply for, for health and safety reasons. The main building, with the roof collapsing, it likely falls under that, but [MECP] is checking with their legal team to see if the municipality can apply for that exemption, being that it's not the property owner," Korpela said. "It's a very unique case here."

In October, council directed staff to investigate removing debris from already felled buildings – bylaw officer Hailey Cole said the township needs to conduct a waste audit of the property and send the report to MECP, then it can step in. She estimated the audit would cost about \$10,000.

Regarding the main lodge and other remaining buildings, Cole said a months-long species at-risk study paid for by Aurora Group was deemed inconclusive by the



Dysart et al is seeking approval from the MECP to demolish the Wigamog Inn property. *File*

ministry. She said the township had two options – wait until next summer to conduct another study, or apply for an exemption to proceed with demolition for health and safety reasons.

Korpela recommended that exemption cover only the main lodge, to improve the township's chances of approval.

"That's the main issue – the building people are still trying to break into, that's falling down. If we're able to do that it might also speed the RFP (request for proposals from companies to do the work) along... then the Auroras could handle the rest [of the project] and demolish at their own pace," Korpela said. "At least that would give us something we can accomplish this year."

Council didn't like that approach – Ward 1 representative Pat Casey said he'd prefer to do it all at once, believing the township has grounds for a full exemption.

"Between toxic mold, [risk of] fire, animals getting into it – the safety hazards go on and on," Casey said. "I don't want to tear down the main lodge and then still have that eyesore lurking behind it."

Korpela said that runs the risk of MECP saying no – and the project being paused for a further four months, until migrated bats return, and another at-risk species study can be completed.

Cole said preliminary quotes for the remaining demolition and removal of all debris was around \$800,000.

Dysart CAO Tamara Wilbee said the township will have to be cautious about how much it spends at the site – attempts will first be made to recoup funds from Aurora Group, but failing that they'll have to be made whole through selling the property. How much is still owed on the property is not known.

## DYSART ET AL NEWS

### Landfill redesign

Dysart et al council has signed off on the proposed redesign of the Haliburton landfill, with the township's environmental manager, John Watson, saying staff has identified "very, very rough costs" of between \$1.5 and \$2 million to complete the work.

Watson first presented his proposal in June – the redesign includes the demolition of an existing storage structure and installation of a weigh scale, new attendant kiosk, and additional waste and recycling drop-off spots. The plan also called for

the entrance to the landfill to be relocated further along Industrial Park Road.

He suggested the Haliburton landfill become the only site in Dysart to accept demolition waste, while proposing it be open seven days per week. It's currently closed on Monday and Tuesday.

Council asked Watson to investigate upgrading the West Guilford site instead, but he reported back Dec. 10 that consultant, Jp2g, advised against it.

"The challenge is the [landfill's] proximity to a home, which is adjacent to the property we're in the process of purchasing. Because there would probably

be a need for a second entrance onto Hwy. 118 and a turning lane installed, we'd need to work with the ministry. There would also be a need for Indigenous consultation due to the proximity to an Alderville First Nation property," Watson said.

Council supported moving ahead with the Haliburton landfill project. Watson said the next step is to secure an engineer to come up with a thorough site design. That will help determine final costs, Watson said. He said it will be late spring or early summer before that work is complete. (*Dysart et al news compiled by Mike Baker*).

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To tell the story of Haliburton County each week.

To be a source of information and inspiration through stories and ideas.

To report on issues, people and events important to the community.

To reflect and promote pride in the culture, people and landscape of The Highlands.

To encourage Highlanders to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day.

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# Democracy in trouble

I had to chuckle at the notices for the warden election this week in Haliburton County.

Going into Tuesday afternoon’s special council meeting, both candidates, and everyone else at the table, knew who the new warden would be.

It had been determined long before the Dec. 10 “election.” The ‘old guard’ was slated to back Highlands East mayor Dave Burton as he was one of their own; someone they could count on not to rock the boat, and someone they could control.

The same could not be said for Minden Hills mayor Bob Carter. Though into his second term as a municipal councillor, he is still regarded as a newby or outsider by the likes of former warden Liz Danielsen, Dysart et al mayor Murray Fearrey and deputy mayor Walt McKechnie, as well as Burton’s deputy, Cec Ryall. With Burton’s vote, that was enough to cement the deal.

Of course, the vote is done in private but we would guess it was 5-3.

For the past six years, the position has been held by Danielsen. Carter ran against her in 2023. We’re told Burton wanted the seat. I suspect a deal was done so Burton would support Danielsen last year, in exchange for her supporting him this time around. It means

Carter has been shuffled to the backbenches again. He must be getting frustrated.

I have nothing against Burton. He has political experience. However, I have believed for some time now that new blood is needed in local municipal politics.

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) recently completed its ‘Healthy Democracy Project’. Minden Hills Coun. Pam Sayne made a presentation to her council about it. It would be great to see County councillors read the AMO work as well.

Launched two years ago, it was designed to attract more diverse candidates to municipal office and increase voter turnout.

As Sayne pointed out, fewer people are voting and engaging in the local democratic decision-making process. Fewer people are running for municipal office and acclamations are on the rise. As such, Ontario’s municipal councils are not representative of the diverse populations they serve.

At the same time, I can understand why some people choose not to run since Ontario’s municipally-elected officials are increasingly dealing with hostility. The social media hits are also fast and furious.



By Lisa Gervais

‘The Healthy Democracy Project’ builds on AMO’s ‘We All Win campaign’ and is designed to: attract more diverse candidates to municipal office; support elected officials to be equity-informed leaders; promote more respect for people engaged in the democratic processes; encourage greater participation in local democracy and an increase in voter turnout; promote greater civic engagement and greater awareness of the role of municipal government.

Again, I’m not knocking those sitting around the County council table. Some ran because no one else was prepared to. We need to make running more financially attractive to potential candidates by upping salaries. This could be done at the last council meetings of this term. But money is just one carrot. Candidates should want to serve the community. We need people with energy and vitality to help lead us going forward into the future.

# No choice but to merge

With the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit (HKPR) last week announcing that it plans to merge with Peterborough Public Health (PPH) effective Jan. 1, 2025, one has to wonder what kind of impact this is going to have on people looking to access public health programming and services moving forward.

Generally speaking, whenever you hear someone talking about a merger – a dirty word – or a consolidation – an even dirtier one, especially here in the County – the loose translation is there’s probably going to be some kind of service reduction, hidden among buzzwords like ‘efficiency’ and ‘streamlining’, to go along with cost savings.

According to Cec Ryall, the County’s sitting member on the HKPR board, the opposite is true for this partnership. He said the merger is moving ahead to stop what has been a constant flow of program cuts over the past two years, while ensuring the new conjoined entity receives more money than the two units would have gotten separately.

It checks out – last month Dr. Natalie Bocking, HKPR medical officer of health, said the unit is projecting to finish the 2024/25 fiscal year on March 31 with a \$188,467 budget shortfall. She said funding increases from the Ministry of Health, capped at one per cent for the next three years, are not enough to maintain current service levels.

HKPR is using cash reserves to balance its

budget.

The health unit has had to scale back in areas like nutrition, student and school health, and the public vaccine and preventable diseases program. Since 2022, HKPR has effectively eliminated six full-time positions – Bocking referred to the practice as gapping, leaving approved and needed positions vacant to balance the books.

Our health unit has been bleeding for some time – Ryall said, without a merger, he feared for the corporation’s future.

When you look at inflation over the past few years – the country’s Consumer Price Index rose 6.8 per cent in 2022, 3.9 per cent in 2023, and projected to be 2.9 per cent come the end of 2024, so up 13.6 per cent – and consider that new contracts with unionized staff are driving costs up about three per cent annually there, it’s easy to see why. Especially with the Ministry of Health sticking to such paltry annual funding increases.

So, with very little new money coming in, but an approximate 15 to 20 per cent increase to the health unit’s bottom line, something had to give. Bocking said without the merger, or a massive increase in municipal tax contributions, more cuts in future years were a certainty.

It’s impossible to say at this point whether merging will prove to be the life-saving surgery both HKPR and PPH needs. We know little about how they plan to bring

departments together. We don’t yet know who will lead this new corporation. We don’t even know what it’s going to be called.

What we do know is the province is investing a little over \$10.1 million to make this happen. The Ministry of Health has committed to covering 100 per cent of all merger-related costs. Bocking said there should be money left over to help with immediate capital improvements and program stabilization.

Looking big picture, Ryall hopes the merger provides County residents with better access to care and services. Seeing no way past crippling budget limitations operating solely under the HKPR banner, the Highlands East deputy mayor is prepared to take a leap of faith.

To me, it seems the Ontario government’s continued underfunding has pushed Ryall, the rest of the HKPR board, and colleagues at PPH into the unknown. Really, they have no choice but to hope for the best, because what they were doing couldn’t go on for much longer.

Here’s hoping this merger proves to be the exception – meaning improvements – rather than the usual rule of cut, cut, cut.



By Mike Baker

**Correction:** In the Dec. 5 *Highlander*, page 5, we said Kenny Beers was recognized for 35 years, and Larry Smith, for 25 years, as seasonal 1 operator/labourers with the County of Haliburton. It was Beers with 25 years and Smith with 35 years. We apologize for the error.





**Festive treat**

Hundreds of Highlanders left the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion with that warm, fuzzy, festive feeling this past weekend as Heritage Ballet wowed with three performances of *The Nutcracker* Dec. 7 and 8. The community was out in full force to show its support for one of the County's longest-running traditions, with the 19th annual performance featuring 47 youth and nine adults this year. The performance was directed by Julie Barban. (Mike Baker).

Top: Alexis Dacey, Chloe Morissette, Maddy Walker, and Isabella Valentini perform the candy cane dance. Middle left: Ella Hirstwood, Keira Buchanan and Julia Bramham were among the youngest performers. Bottom left: Aidan Innes, Shawn Collins, Wesley Bramham, and Isaac Fahrur take centre stage. Centre: Gracie Pockett brought the Harlequin Doll to life on stage. Above: The Polichinelles Callie Dollo and Paislee Cybulski take a leap of faith. Photos by Danielle Clements.



# Targeting substance abuse and mental health

By Lisa Gervais

Point in Time, in partnership with the Canadian Mental Health Association Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge, and several organizations representing the Haliburton County Connections Committee, have announced the launch of a two-year project.

‘Coming Full Circle: Training, Mentorship and Employment Supports for People with Lived Experience in Haliburton County’ will begin Jan. 1.

Canada’s Substance Use and Addictions Program (SUAP) has given the partners just under \$800,000 for the project.

It aims to build a network of people with lived and living experience of substance use and mental health challenges who are trained, equipped and supported to become peer support workers. These workers will have opportunities to build their own professional and leadership capacity to contribute to health and social system improvements across Haliburton County.

Marg Cox, executive director for Point in Time, said they are grateful to have the “exceptional” opportunity for training, education and employment supports for people with lived experience, as well as new community spaces and educational initiatives for community leaders.

“We are aware that the pandemic, economics and stress levels have contributed to substance use and we are thrilled to have

an opportunity to co-develop supports with people with living and lived experience.”

CMHA HKPR will play a primary role in the operations of the project. Other partners include: Haliburton Kawartha Lakes Pine Ridge district health unit, the County of Haliburton Community Safety and Well-Being, Community Living Trent Highlands, Kawartha Lakes Housing Corporation, John Howard Society of Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton, PARN - Your Community AIDS Resource Network, and Haliburton Highlands Health Services.

Kerri Kightley, director of programs and services at CMHA HKPR, said they know people who have experienced challenges related to mental health and substance use have unique expertise in navigating systems and services that support their own recovery.

“This project aims to match that expertise with people who are struggling or who may be hesitant to reach out for help, and work to connect them with services to support their health and recovery. CMHA HKPR is thrilled to be working with Point in Time and our partners in Haliburton County to launch this important work.”

Project planners will be looking for people with lived and living experience to consult with as well as explore new space opportunities. If you would like to get involved in this project, phone or text 705-761-5499.



Point in Time’s Marg Cox has welcomed the new program. *File.*

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HIGHLANDS EAST NEWS

Contract awarded for Herlihey Park

Highlands East, at its Dec. 10 regular council meeting, awarded the contract for the completion of Herlihey Park to Francis Thomas Contracting of Carnarvon.

The winning bid from six companies to complete construction was \$183,987.17 plus taxes. The cost was included in the 2024 budget.

Francis Thomas Contracting will build all walking trails, complete parking areas, finish all landscaping, including a beach area, and use existing building beams to incorporate into the park area.

Public works operations manager, Perry Kelly, said, “work will commence as soon as all of the required paperwork is completed. Francis Thomas Contracting is committed to working with the municipality to complete the necessary work, including the plantings by the end of early spring 2025.”

Carol and Karl Marcus donated \$400,000 to Highlands East to purchase the property in 2017, and donated funds for the master plan. The park is named in honour of their parents, Beatrice and Harold Herlihey. Located on Dark Lake in Wilberforce, the seven-acre property was once home to the Wilberforce veneer plant. The Marcus’ wanted residents to be able to enjoy the property for years to come. The park will feature walking trails, a beach, a picnic pavilion and recognize the history of the area.

Work was to begin the week of Dec. 9.

Staff to look at landfill hours

Kelly asked council for permission to review landfill operating hours in the township for 2025.

He said they are looking to better serve the community, improve operational efficiency, and address environmental concerns.

The township operates and maintains four landfill sites and one transfer station. There are summer and winter hours. Each site has their own specific hours that vary by location.

“There is no set of consistent hours,” Kelly said. He noted the hours had been in place for several years and may no longer align with the needs of the community or operational demands.

He told council if they were interested in reviewing and making proposed changes to the landfill site hours, staff would prepare a revised hours schedule and seek council feedback, including public consultation, prior to any changes being implemented.

He thought changes would lead to improved access, reduced congestion, enhanced environmental management, and customer satisfaction.

Coun. Cam McKenzie sought assurance there would be no reduction in hours. Kelly said they would not be removing hours, but may add some.

Council gave him the green light to prepare a follow-up report.



Highlands East council met for their final meeting of 2024 Dec. 10. *File.*

Council pay rise

Council voted to increase the amount of money councillors make.

Effective Jan. 1, 2025, the mayor will now be paid \$32,500 a year, the deputy mayor \$26,150 and councillors, \$22,025.

CAO/treasurer Brittany McCaw said there had not been an increase since 2018 and she

was proposing “fair remuneration.”

She reviewed other salaries across Haliburton County, Hastings County, and Peterborough County before “drafting a fair and equitable bylaw.”

She said the added costs would go into the 2025 budget. (*Highlands East news compiled by Lisa Gervais.*)





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## Turning up the heat for Places for People

Places for People has launched a seasonal fundraising campaign – birthed when they found out they have to replace an “ancient” oil furnace in one of their properties.

Spokesperson, Sherry Lawr, said starting at the beginning of December, people have been purchasing a ‘degree’ as part of ‘Turn Up the Heat for P4P’.

Lawr said they maintain their properties in the most economical way possible, giving tenants a safe and secure home with the most effective appliances they can provide.

The unexpected cost of the new furnace is \$8,450.

“Add that new purchase to the cost to keep the heat and lights on in our units last year and the bill comes to nearly \$40,000,” Lawr said.

“While our tenants pay rent that incorporates some of those costs, there is still a deficit at the end of the day. We need your help to ensure we can continue to operate and everyone stays warm this winter and beyond.”

Last year, through the generosity of Haliburton County residents, P4P was able to replace windows in one of its properties. “Together, we raised \$13,000, which went a long way to helping that project become a reality.”

Lawr said the goal for this holiday season is to surpass that total and raise \$15,000 by Dec. 31.

For \$200, people can buy a full degree, or purchase a portion of a degree for less.

“Our aim is to ‘Turn Up the Heat’ to 72 Fahrenheit (room temperature). Places For People now owns and operates 20 affordable units throughout Haliburton County without the support of government grants. Maintaining those properties and supporting our tenants is a daunting task but one we are proud to take on,” Lawr said.

They encourage the public to follow their Facebook and Instagram pages throughout December to track the campaign’s progress. The public can purchase degrees through Canada Helps by going to [placesforpeople.ca](https://placesforpeople.ca). (Lisa Gervais).

Roland Lange does work on a Places for People property. *Submitted.*

## HHHS mental health program has moved

The Haliburton Highlands Health Services’ mental health team has now relocated to HHHS’ Minden site.

Chief nursing executive, Jennifer Burns

West, said, “after reviewing the current mental health location for safety and functionality, and to effectively use the available space at the Minden HHHS site, we have co-designed a plan that will improve the environment and program space for the HHHS mental health program.”

As of Dec. 2, all mental health services are provided at 6 McPherson St. Minden. To access the program, enter through the Lifelabs entrance off McKay Street.

West said there are no changes to services, and all programs will be offered at the new location.

She added, if you or someone you know

is in crisis, call 9-8-8 or 9-1-1 in case of an emergency.

Should you require the assistance of a HHHS mental health team member, the office telephone 705-286-4575 and fax number 705-286-6123 have not changed. (Lisa Gervais).

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Flipping out with St. Nick

Camp Wanakita held its annual Breakfast with Santa event this past Saturday, Dec. 7. Despite a big snowfall, more than 600 people still made their way to have a delicious free breakfast and see Santa Claus. There were games for the kids and face-painting and the ever-popular photos with Santa Claus. The spirits were high as everyone enjoyed their morning.

Top left: Everli Bain, Santa Claus, Samantha Reinwald and Raeya Reinwald pose for a picture by the Christmas tree. Above: A young lady proudly holds a python at the animal exhibit. Left: Everyone wanted to get their faces painted with holiday spirit. Photos by Justin Belanger.

The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Highlands Christmas Shindig

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See You Next Year!







### A turtly cool Christmas

The Turtle Guardians' Christmas open house was this past Friday, Dec. 6 and Saturday, Dec. 7. Located at the Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association, the organization helps turtles to rehabilitate and heal from traumatic injuries. Staff put out the word to people about how to handle turtle interactions in the County.

Left: Grace Wiley greets visitors with a warm smile. Above: One of the happy turtles swims around its tank.  
*Photos by Justin Belanger.*



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Students share thoughts on well-being

The Rails End Gallery and Arts Centre, Trillium Lakelands District School Board, and the County of Haliburton’s Community Safety and Well-Being Department launched Safe & Well 2, a youth-led art exhibition created by students from Haliburton Highlands Secondary School and J.D. Hodgson Elementary School Dec. 6. There was an opening reception hosted by participating students at Rails End Gallery. The exhibit will be open to the public until Dec. 20. The exhibition invites residents and visitors to view community safety and well-being through the artistic interpretations of local youth, fostering conversation and connection within the community. Safe & Well 2 is free to the public. Rails End Gallery is open weekly, Wednesday through Friday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. For those who cannot attend in-person, a virtual version will also be available at railsendgallery.com. For more information about Haliburton County’s Community Safety and Well-Being Plan, go to haliburtoncounty.ca/CSWB. (Lisa Gervais).

Above: Calla Jones poses in front of her charcoal sketch ‘I’m fine.’ Top right: A group of art students discuss their creations. Right: Olivia Fitzell smiles beside her artwork ‘intrusive thoughts.’ Photos by Justin Belanger.

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**December 22**  
Christmas Pageant ~ 4 pm

If you are travelling out of town or unable to attend Christmas Eve Service, you are welcome to join us for

**Early Christmas Eve Service**  
**December 22 ~ 5 pm**  
Followed by a light supper

**December 24 Christmas Eve Services**  
St. Peter’s Anglican Maple Lake ~ 1:00 pm  
St. James Anglican Kinmount ~ 3:00 pm  
St. Paul’s Anglican Minden ~ 5:00 pm

**December 25 Christmas Day**  
**St. Paul’s Minden**  
Christmas Day Morning Service ~ 10:30 am  
Christmas Day Dinner ~ 12:00 noon

If the weather is bad, or it’s too far to travel out of town for family Christmas Dinner, or maybe you just don’t feel like cooking, you are welcome to join us for Christmas Day Dinner. In order to plan for number attending the Christmas Dinner, it’s appreciated if you could please call or email the Church office to reserve a spot; if you cannot call ahead you are still welcome to join us. Church Office Phone: 705-286-2541; Rev. Canon Joan 705-492-5858; office email [mkmlanglican@gmail.com](mailto:mkmlanglican@gmail.com)

**Canoe FM Begins On-Air Testing on 97.1 FM in Minden!**

Canoe FM is excited to announce that **Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED)** has authorized us to begin on-air testing of the permanent transmitting facilities at our repeater station, **CKHA-FM-1**, broadcasting on **97.1 FM** out of **Minden, Ontario**.

Testing will begin on **December 17, 2024**, and will conclude no later than **January 28, 2025**.

We value your feedback during this testing period. If you have any **comments or concerns**, please reach out to us by:

**Email:** [manager@canoefm.com](mailto:manager@canoefm.com)  
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After the testing has been approved 97.1 Minden & 100.9 Haliburton will be permanent frequencies in our County.

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**The Voice of the Haliburton Highlands**

**CANOE 100.9 FM**

[www.canoefm.com](http://www.canoefm.com)



# St. George's the gift that keeps on giving

By Mike Baker

Louise Sisson is always a welcome guest at the Youth Wellness Hub in Haliburton at this time of the year.

The St. George's Anglican Church parishioner stopped by the Dysart Avenue facility Dec. 9 to deliver 50 handmade satchels, filled with gift cards and other goodies, to be given out to youth over the holidays.

It's the eighth year for the effort, which Sisson said is all about giving back to the community.

"It started when Rev. Anne Moore was here, she brought it to our attention, but we didn't start until Rev. Ken McClure was here. His wife, Becca, worked at the youth hub and so she would tell Ken about the need. And Ken loved a good story – he took this story of the 'St. Nick's Satchel' and ran with it. Here we are years later still making it happen."

Sisson said there're about 14 women from the church who work on the satchels from the end of October to early December. They always use bright, festive colours and jam the bags full of fruit, chocolate and small keepsakes, as well as three \$25 gift cards to businesses in the County.

All costs are covered by the church congregation, Sisson said, with collections running through November.

New this year, the Haliburton Highlands Quilt Guild contributed small gifts to each satchel pack – Sisson said she wanted to see other organizations and businesses get involved too.

"A lot of people are struggling now. There's lots of troubled families in our community – there's a real need and we try to be there when

we can. We don't do a whole lot anymore, like the pancake supper we had to stop, but this is one way we're able to give back," Sisson said.

She noted churchgoers also assist the hub in providing transportation for youth to and from the centre, while contributing financially to other initiatives throughout the year.

"We all have grandchildren, so we don't want to see anyone go without," she said.

Mary Sisson, manager at the youth hub, said the satchels are a welcome donation at this time of the year as older kids are often overlooked.

"We usually see a lot of toy donations over the holidays, but it's harder with teenagers because they don't necessarily want toys... it's harder making sure they get something they like," Mary said.

The satchels tend to fly out the door like hotcakes, Mary said, with all 50 usually accounted for. Sometimes, if there are spares, Mary will set gift cards aside for those in need in the new year. She's also given to students at the adult and alternate education centre.

"We love the look of pleasant surprise and gratitude that spreads across young people's faces when they receive these satchels... they're always really thankful that people would think of them and go out of their way to do something nice for them. Especially so for youth that may not have close family," Mary said.

Youth Wellness Hub manager Mary Sisson shows off some of the handmade satchels with churchgoer Louise Sisson Dec. 9. *Submitted.*



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**Music - Finding Your Voice**

Instructor : Lizzy Clarke

**March 21 to April 17**

*Five-Session Friday Course*

**Arts Commerce - Small Business Planning & Design**

Instructor : Lindsey Irwin

### Week-Long Courses & One-Day Workshops

**February 10 to 14**

**Painting - From Realism to Abstraction**

Instructor : Elizabeth Greisman

**Saturday, February 15**

**Digital Arts - Adobe Photoshop Intro Workshop**

Instructor : Zach Williams

**February 24 to 28**

**Fibre Arts - Art Quilts**

Instructor : Jan Anderson

**Saturday, March 1**

**Digital Arts - Adobe Illustrator Intro Workshop**

Instructor : Zach Williams

**March 24 to 28**

**Watercolour - Landscape Painting**

Instructor : Gord Jones

**Saturday, March 29**

**Digital Arts - Photoshop Collage Workshop**

Instructor : Corin Ford Forrester

### NEW! March Break Art Courses - March 10 - 14

**Kids Art Camp - Wild About Clay**

Instructor : Isabel Neveu-Geene

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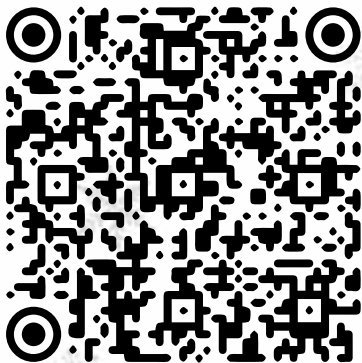
Instructor : Martha Johnson

**Youth Art Camp - Artful Explorations**

Instructor : Kelly Albin

**Youth/Teen Quilting Basics**

Instructor : Jan Anderson



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**Clowning around  
for a cause**

Recently, the Minden Rotary Celebrity Clowns raised \$517.65 for the Minden Community Food Centre, showcasing their commitment to helping those in need this holiday season. Pictured, left to right, Sally Moore, Rotarian and celebrity clown, Jean Munroe, manager of Minden Community Food Centre, and Lynette Grey, assistant manager. *(Lisa Gervais). Submitted.*

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**Pajamas a perfect fit**

Joy Webster and her Great South Lake Pajama Project has resulted in just under 500 pj's being gifted by the community to long-term care home residents, people in social housing, those with disabilities, folks suffering with mental health and addictions, the Minden Urgent Care Clinic, Minden Community Food Centre, the Haliburton Hospital ED, YWCA, Point in Time, and people in crisis. Pictured Jean Munroe, Susan Farrer, Anne Stephens, Webster, Tina Thornton, Rev Joan and Dawn Mole-Hurd. *Submitted.*

**TheHighlander**  
It's what everyone's reading



*Merry  
Christmas  
&  
Happy  
New Year!*



**Empty bowls fill coffers**

The Haliburton Legion's recent Empty Bowls fundraiser raised \$3,300 for SIRCH Community Services, \$3,300 for the 4Cs Food Bank, and \$3,300 for Fuel for Warmth. The Legion also recently collected 216 pounds of food for the food bank for Thanksgiving. Pictured at one of the cheque presentations is Legion president Mike Waller with Judy MacDuff of Haliburton 4Cs and Michelle Anton. *(Lisa Gervais). Submitted.*





### Bringing the wind for Christmas

The Highlands Wind Symphony held their Christmas concert Sunday, Dec. 8 at Lakeside Church in Haliburton. The symphony played familiar classics to a nearly sold-out show. A sing along and carols were sung by all, both Lorie Redding and vocalist Jerelyn Craden crooned Christmas songs. The Haliburton Swing Band performed five different songs before the full symphony wrapped up the festive concert.

Top: Maggie Thompson plays the baritone sax and leads the Highlands Swing Band. Inset: Vocalist Jerelyn Craden sings *All I Want for Christmas* by Mariah Carey. Top right: Keli Schmidt having a great time. Above: Frank Boccitto plays a tuba. Middle right: Ken Loney shares a laugh with his band mates during the intermission. Right: Flutist Karen Armstrong plays a tune. *Photos by Justin Belanger.*



# STARS of the WEEK



**ZACH LOWE**

The backbone of this team. He's a wall to get through, boasting a remarkable save percentage.



**ADAM DAVIS**

Leads with skill and determination. His ability to skate from forward to defense in the blink of an eye is what this team needs.



**HAIDEN BIRD**

Known for his lightning speed and sharp shooting. Haiden is one of the team's top scorers. *Photos by Tim Tofflemire.*



The U18 Highland Storm played three games in the 24th annual International Silver Stick LL/HL Regional Tournament. *Submitted.*

## U18's continue to grow as a team

This past weekend, our U18 Highland Storm put up a hard fight. Determination would be a great word to describe the team Dec. 7-8 at our home tournament at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena in Minden.

They went out with resolve, which showed as they scored the first goal of the tournament Saturday against the Ennismore Eagle Greens. They won the second game versus the Centre Hastings Grizzlies and

followed up with a tough loss in the last game, against the Kanata Dirty Pineapples. The squad never stopped trying. They have had ups and downs this season, but continue to grow as a team. *Submitted.*

### SCORE BOARD

- Dec. 2**
  - U13 Cheryl Smith RE/MAX vs Lindsay 7-1 W
- Dec. 3**
  - U11 LL Carquest Minden vs Kawartha 11-1 L
  - U15 Rep Haliburton Timber Mart vs Lindsay 3-0 W
- Dec. 5**
  - U13 LL Curry Chevrolet vs U13 LL Casey Water Wells & Geothermal 5-3 W for Casey Water Wells
- Dec. 6**
  - U15 Rep Haliburton Timbermart vs Brock 8-0 W
- U15 LL The Pepper Mill Steak and Pasta House vs Mariposa 6-2 W
- Dec. 7**
  - U11 LL Carquest Minden vs Manvers 5-1 L
  - U13 LL Casey Water Wells & Geothermal vs Millbrook 5-1 W
- Dec. 8**
  - U13 LL Curry Chevrolet vs Kawartha 5-2 W
  - U11 Rep Cottage Country Building Supplies vs Kawartha 3-0 L

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# Familiar face back between the pipes

By Lisa Gervais

A familiar face is back in the Haliburton County Huskies family as goalie Tyler Hodges returned for a pair of weekend road games.

The 6-foot-2-inch left-handed goalie played with the team in the 2022-23 season, recording 13 wins and five losses. His goals against average was 2.00 and save percentage 0.931.

Hodges spent the 2023-2024 season and the start of the 2024-2025 season in the British Columbia Hockey League.

Head coach and general manager Ryan Ramsay said, "it was good timing. We needed a goalie. He's a great goalie who has developed a lot the past couple of years. He's got a scholarship to play NCAA Division 1 at Dartmouth [next year], so this is a massive deal for us to bring in a legit number one."

The Huskies had traded Corbin Votary to the Maritime Junior Hockey League, leaving them with rookie Carter Nadon. They had brought up a 17-year-old affiliate player the Nov. 30-Dec. 1 weekend, but were looking for a starter.

Ramsay added the Huskies know what they are getting with Hodges so, "it's nice to get that familiar face and knowledge of what he can do."

Ramsay said Declan Bowmaster is also back, reacquired from the Collingwood Blues.

The blue and white split a pair of weekend road games – in which the back stopper only allowed three goals against.

## Huskies 1 Dukes 2

On Dec. 8, the Huskies dropped a 2-1 decision to the Wellington Dukes on the road.

The home team began the scoring, with Cory Jewitt firing one in at 5:23 of the first period.

The tight contest did not see its second goal until, with just three seconds remaining in the second frame, Sacha Trudel scored to put the Dukes up 2-0 heading to the third.

In the final frame, the Huskies Nathan Poole fired in his 14th of the season, at 17:09, from Alex Bradshaw, with his 17th dish, and Carson Littlejohn, his 22nd.

The Huskies had 31 shots while Hodges turned aside 13 of just 15 shots.

Ramsay said they outplayed Wellington for much of the game. "Our powerplay had really good looks but we just couldn't score. That's something we'll have to address this week and try to maybe tweak some things here and there."

## Huskies 4 Buzzers 1

On Dec. 6, the Huskies handled the St. Michael's Buzzers 4-1.

Poole opened the scoring for the visitors, with his 13th of the year, unassisted.

St. Mike's tied it up early in the second on a goal by Hudson Cumming.

But the Huskies answered less than a minute later, as Noah Lodoen punched his third, from Adam Smeeton and Bradshaw.

At 16:40 of the second frame, Vincent Gazquez recorded his fourth tally of the season, assisted by Isaac Larmand to make it 3-1 Huskies headed to the third.

The lone third period marker was Tyson Rismond's first, from Bradshaw, at 3:32.

Hodges stopped 23 of the 24 shots fired at him.

Ramsay said, "he played great. He made some big saves to not give the momentum to them. We're happy with his performance this weekend."

The team is fourth in the competitive East Conference with a record of 21 wins and nine losses, good for 42 points. They are just three behind the Toronto Jr. Canadiens and Dukes, while the Trenton Golden Hawks are starting to separate themselves from the competition.

Ramsay said forward Ty Petrou remains week-to-week. "He might play this weekend, but we're not sure."

**Next up:** The Pickering Panthers at S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena. Puck drop is 4 p.m.



Huskies goaltender Tyler Hodges is back. *File.*

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**Getting crafty in Minden**

The Minden Legion played host to a Christmas craft sale on Sunday, Dec. 8. Held over four hours, Christmas shoppers could browse the booths and pick up some gifts for loved ones from local artisans. On hand were the Beaded Treasures of Fwin Norry as well as Creations by Lyn, mittens that are 100 per cent recycled, and repurposed old sweaters.

Left: Husband and wife team Ray and Sandy Moffat smile in front of their woodworking. Bottom left: Lyn Stevens recycles old sweaters, coats and blankets into unique winter mittens. Below: Fwin Norry at her booth of Beaded Treasures. Photos by Justin Belanger.



**Christmas Eve Service**

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# TheHighlander



**Contact us for details at  
[heather@thehighlander.ca](mailto:heather@thehighlander.ca)**





Historic open house

The Wilberforce Heritage Guild hosted its annual Christmas open house Dec. 7 at the Red Cross Outpost Historic House, located at 2314 Loop Rd. Member Barb Schofield said despite the snowy conditions, 17 people stopped by to spread holiday cheer and enjoy lively conversation. The museum is closed for the winter, but visits can be arranged via appointment. The group’s next activity will be hand quilting in February, Schofield said. If anyone would like to participate, or join the society, contact wilberforcebarb@yahoo.ca.

Guild members enjoyed Saturday’s social at the Wilberforce Historic Red Cross Outpost. Back row: Linda Ladd, Cathy Agnew, Linda Cameron, Linda Nottage, and David Watson. Sitting: Barb Schofield, Jill Lee, and Ann Watson. Submitted.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills has received an application to consider a by-law to stop up, close, and convey a parcel of land, being a shoreline road allowance, and more particularly described as follows:

1. File No. PLSRA2024030: Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Canning Lake, lying in front of 1027 Ketola Lane located within Part Lot 15, Concession 14, Geographic Township of Snowdon.



The above noted application is available for inspection in the Planning Department located at 7 Milne Street, Minden, Ontario by appointment only. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the undersigned.

AND TAKE NOTICE should you wish to provide comments with respect to the above referenced application, please submit in writing those comments to the undersigned not later than January 10, 2025.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE any person who claims that their land will be prejudicially affected is asked to contact the undersigned not later than January 10, 2025.

AND TAKE FURTHER NOTICE if deemed advisable, a By-law giving effect to the proposed closure and conveyance will be passed by the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills. Please note that a Council meeting to consider a By-law for the above referenced applications will be scheduled at a later date following the requisite commenting period.

Amanda Dougherty, B.A. (Hons)  
Manager of Planning  
Township of Minden Hills  
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### URINETOWN THE MUSICAL

OPENS  
JULY  
1

It all starts with the sixteenth letter of the alphabet, P. The letter which speaks for itself or, when spelled out, pee, is the central theme to this fast-paced musical, **Urinetown**. As a metaphor for the over-arching intrusion of big corporations into all aspects of our lives, the plucky cast of citizens fights back against the UGC Company. With music and lyrics by Mark Hollmann, and book and lyrics by Greg Kotis the cast makes its case for human rights with music, humour, and boycotts as several love stories emerge from the mayhem.

Opens July 1st for seven performances, including three matinees. Recommended for ages 13 and up.\*

### The Fitzgeralds



OPENS  
JULY  
9

Outstanding musicianship and energetic staging that will leave you calling for more - **The Fitzgeralds** have been dazzling audiences for years. We are delighted to include **The Fitzgeralds** in this summer's program, which will feature their lightning-fast fiddling and some equally mesmerizing footwork.

Opens July 9th for three performances including one matinee. Recommended for ages eight and up.\*

### Salt- Water Moon

OPENS  
JULY  
15

For our third show, we turn to the production which opened the Festival 25 years ago, the award-winning **Salt-Water Moon**. This quintessential Canadian play by David French, set in Newfoundland, eight years after the end of the First World War, is a touching love story with the conflicted young lovers over-lain by the memory of the horrors of the war, changing roles for women in society and technological advances. The story of **Salt-Water Moon** resonates as strongly today as it did when we first presented it on our stage in the summer of 2000.

Opens July 15th for seven performances, including two matinees. Recommended for ages 13 and up.\*



OPENS  
JULY  
27

Accusations, mistaken identities, and romances run wild in this traditional, laugh-out-loud farce, **Drinking Habits** by Tom Smith. Two nuns at the Sisters of Perpetual Sewing have been secretly making wine to keep the convent's doors open, but Paul and Sally, reporters and former fiancées, are hot on their trail as they go undercover as a nun and priest. Wine and secrets are inevitably spilled as everyone tries to preserve the convent and reconnect with lost loves.

Opens July 27th for six performances, including two matinees. **This production contains mature themes.** Recommended for ages 13 and up.\*



### Feeling Bubl 

OPENS  
AUG  
3

The 2025 summer season closes with **Feeling Bubl **, a Michael Bubl  Tribute that captures the feel of a Michael Bubl  concert. Jay Davis nails the sound and moves of Michael Bubl  while creating a warm and light-hearted atmosphere. Audiences clap and sing along. Be a part of this feel-good performance of music featuring Michael Bubl 's greatest hits performed by Jay Davis and his world-class jazz band.

Opening August 3rd for four performances, including one matinee. Recommended for ages 13 and up.\*



EVENTS

**Dec. 12, 4:15 p.m. and 7:15 p.m.**  
Those Other Movies presents *My Penguin Friend* at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion. Tickets \$10 cash at the door. Other winter dates, Jan. 9 *The Great Escaper*; Feb. 13 *We Live in Time*; March 13 TBD, reserve your ticket for Doc(k) Days, April 5, 2025 at [thoseothermovies.com](http://thoseothermovies.com)

**Dec. 13, 5 to 8 p.m.**  
Haliburton Rotary community Christmas and skating party at A.J. LaRue Arena and the Haliburton Legion. Bring the whole family for an evening of festive fun, featuring games, face painting, free ice skating, music, hot chocolate, pizza and treats, and more. Bring your camera for a picture with Santa. There will be presents for all kids in attendance. Skating wraps up by 7 p.m. Face painting is at the legion from 6 to 7 p.m., with Santa visiting from 7 to 8 p.m.

**Dec. 14, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**  
The Haliburton School of Art + Design is hosting its annual 'Wrap It Up' student exhibition, featuring the work of fall 2024 certificate students from the painting and drawing, fibre arts, ceramics and artist blacksmith programs. in the Great Hall at HSAD, 297 College Dr. Haliburton.

**Dec. 14, 3 p.m.**  
Minden Curling Club Christmas Party, with live music from Jeff Moulton, Mike Clewlow, and the Voices Rising Choir. Happening at the Minden Curling Club at 50 Prentice St.

**Dec. 15, noon to 3 p.m.**  
Aging Together as Community Haliburton Highlands is hosting an LGBTQ+ and seniors and allies festive celebration lunch at SIRCH Bistro in Haliburton. Register for this free event at [peterfquinton@gmail.com](mailto:peterfquinton@gmail.com).

**Dec. 15, 7 to 8 p.m.**  
Celebrate Christmas with carolling at the Essonville

Historic Church. A warm welcome for all to come enjoy this Highlands holiday tradition. Located at 1350 Essonville Line in Highlands East.

**Dec. 21, 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.**  
Santa Ski Day at Sir Sam's Ski/Ride. Dress up as Santa and ski for free. There will be activities throughout the day, with the annual tree lighting, and new lookout tower lighting, beginning at dusk. Live music by Drew and Krew with an ugly Christmas sweater party in the chalet to follow.

**Dec. 25, 4 to 7 p.m.**  
Will you be on your own this Christmas? Or are you interested in helping out and enjoying a community dinner? Be a part of SIRCH Community Services' free Christmas dinner with turkey and all the fixings. At the SIRCH Bistro at 49 Maple Ave. Sponsored by Todd's Independent. Everyone is welcome.

Have a non-profit event you want advertised?  
email [mike@thehighlander.ca](mailto:mike@thehighlander.ca).



ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EVENTS

**Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 129 Haliburton weekly activities**

**Mondays:** Bridge at 1 p.m. in the Schofield Room. Youth darts league starting soon, for ages 10 to 18, at 6:30 p.m. in the clubroom. All are welcome.

**Tuesdays:** League darts starting at 7 p.m. Haliburton Army Cadets practice 6:30-9 p.m. between September and June.

**Wednesdays:** Bid euchre 1 p.m. start, main hall. Bingo is back. There's a \$1,000 jackpot on the first Wednesday of the month.

**Thursdays:** General meeting third Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. & ladies auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.

**Fridays:** Meat draw, five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m., tickets \$2 per draw. Paul Sisson, MC. Friday fun draws 4:30 p.m. onwards.

**Saturdays:** 50/50 draw 4 p.m. Tickets \$1 each, available in the Clubroom.

**Clubroom hours:** Mon closed, Tues 3-9 p.m., Wed/Thurs 3-6 p.m., Fri 3-7 p.m. & Sat 3-6 p.m

**Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 519 Cobocok Second Monday of the month:** General meeting - 7:30 p.m.

**Tuesdays:** Euchre - 1 p.m. Open Darts - 7 p.m.

**First Wednesday of the month:** Big Buck Bid Euchre from 11 a.m. \$15 per person.

**Saturdays:** Meat Roll at 3 p.m.

**Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 624 Wilberforce**

**Mon:** 7 to 10 p.m.

**Wed:** 2 to 6 p.m.

**Thurs:** 2 to 10 p.m.

**Fri:** 2 to 11 p.m.

**Sat:** 2 to 9 p.m.

**Sun:** Special events only

Tree of Warmth: the legion is accepting donations of new mittens, scarves and hats. The donations will be provided to students at Wilberforce and Cardiff elementary schools.

Darts on Dec. 16, 23, and 30. From 7 to 10 p.m. Also Dec. 18 from 2 to 7 p.m. Cost is \$5 per person.

Indoor cornhole on Dec. 12, and 19 at 7 p.m. Cost is \$5 per person.

Wings and jam session Dec. 20, from 5 to 8 p.m. Cost is \$15 per person.

Seniors 55+ Christmas party Dec. 13. Call Denice Butler at 705-448-8865 to book.

Fish and chips Dec. 13 from 5 to 8 p.m. Cost is \$15 per person.

Meat draw on Dec. 14, 21, and 28 at 3 p.m.

New Year's Eve dance party Dec. 31. Cost is \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members. Food provided. Spot dance prizes available. From 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.

**Royal Canadian Legion - Mabel D. Brannigan Branch 636 Minden**

**Monday - Thursday:** Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. with regular menu and daily special including Liver Lovers' Tuesday.

**Friday** Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and dinner 4-7 p.m.

**Saturday** all day breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with meat draws at 11 a.m.

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**Weekly activities:**  
Karaoke: call for dates  
Monday: Euchre 1-3 p.m. Rug Hookers every second week.  
Thursday: Cribbage 1-3 p.m., Darts 7-9 p.m. and euchre 7-9 p.m.



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OBITUARIES



*In Loving Memory of*  
**Dorothy Owens**  
**(nee Cowie)**  
*(Resident of Haliburton)*

Dorothy Frances Owens (nee Cowie), in her 86th year, passed away peacefully and with dignity, surrounded by her very much loved children, on December 5, 2024. Born in Toronto on February 5, 1939, Dorothy lived a full and vibrant life and touched the lives of many people along the way.

Dorothy met and married her best friend and the love of her life, Ron, when she was very young. They married in 1957 and settled in Scarborough where they raised their four children, while Dorothy worked and went to York University part-time as a mature student. She graduated from York, Glendon College, with a degree in Sociology at the age of 49. Dorothy's connection to Haliburton started very young, when her parents, Dorothy and Judson Cowie, brought her to local lodges in Haliburton. Later, she and Ron owned cottages on Canning and Little Straggle Lakes. Once Ron retired, they moved to their 'house on the hill' in Haliburton and Dorothy continued to put her education to good use and along with her love of helping people, working at various agencies in the county including SIRCH, Hospice Haliburton and Sir Sanford Fleming College. She dedicated herself to volunteering for agencies that were near and dear to her heart, such as the Scarborough Board of Health, John Howard Society, the Distress Centre in Scarborough, HHHS, and Family Services in Haliburton.

Dorothy will be remembered as a very kind, caring friend, always there to listen. She was known for her green thumb and beautiful gardens, where she spent hours and found real peace. Her and Ron loved animals and there were often at least 2 dogs and a cat or two in her life, along with the odd raccoon or pigeon that she and her kids had rescued. Her most recent pet, her very special orange cat Michael, has brought her great joy these last couple of years.

Dorothy took great pride in her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. She is survived by her children Jan and her partner Mark from Haliburton, Rick and his partner Karen Holladay from Toronto, Steve from Kitchener, and Brad and his partner Ashley Owens from Airdrie, AB. Her grandchildren Sarah (Lance), Alex (Jess), Ben, Simon, and Chelsea along with her two great-granddaughters, Audrey and Lucy, all brought her such great joy. She is also survived by her much-loved sister, Marianne Bradbury (Keith), and her very special brothers-in-law Garry (Romana) and Brian (Karen). She also leaves behind her oldest, most cherished friend from childhood, Carolyn. Dorothy had many dear friends in the community, young and old, who will miss her.

Dorothy and her family would like to thank Paisley along with the other very caring and kind paramedics from the EMS/Community Paramedic Program who visited her weekly, Sheena and Lyn from M.A.I.D, and her many kind and helpful PSWs who have helped her over the years.

**Private Funeral Arrangements**

As per Dorothy's wishes, there will be no funeral service. Cremation has taken place and a small private celebration of her life will take place when her family can gather again. As an expression of sympathy, donations in Dorothy's memory can be made to SIRCH at: P.O. Box 687, 49 Maple Ave, Unit 4, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0. 705-457-1742. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209.

"Ring the bells that still can ring  
Forget your perfect offering  
There is a crack in everything  
That's how the light gets in."  
~ Leonard Cohen



*Leanne Jean*  
*Henselwood*

Born on May 19, 1975, in Toronto, Ontario, passed away peacefully at Andy's House Hospice Muskoka in Port Carling, Ontario, on November 28, 2024. Leanne's journey through life was marked by her profound love for animals, particularly her passion for tropical birds. She operated a parrot rescue in Orillia, Ontario, where she dedicated several years to caring for and finding homes for these beautiful creatures. Her commitment to animal welfare was a testament to her compassionate nature.

Leanne is survived by her loving parents, Jaqueline and John Henselwood. She leaves behind her sons, John Aaron Henselwood and Donald Grant Travis, along with her daughter, Michayla Jaqueline Garcia. A cherished friend to many, she will also be dearly remembered by her dear friend, Bruce Stewart.

At Leanne's request there will be no public funeral service, an immediate family memorial will be organized at a later date. Her ashes will be interred in the St. Stephens Anglican Cemetery, Halls Lake, Ontario.

Donations in Leanne's memory may be made to  
Andy's House - Hospice, Muskoka:  
[www.hospicemuskoka.com/andyshouse](http://www.hospicemuskoka.com/andyshouse)



*In Loving Memory Of*  
**Brian**  
**Horning**

It is with great sadness that the family announces the passing of Brian Horning in Haliburton, Wednesday, November 13, 2024, at the age of 73. Loving father to Sheena and her husband, Andy of England and Shea and his wife, Melanie of North Bay. Sadly, missed and lovingly remembered by his grandchildren Brayden, Liam and Madison. Dear brother of Robert (Susan) of Caledonia and Gary (Nancy) of Dunnville. The family would like to thank his many dear friends and the staff at Haliburton Hospital Acute Care, for their excellent efforts in supporting Brian. The love and compassion that was shown to him and his family was very much appreciated and will be remembered always.

A tribute to Brian's life will be held at a later date.  
If desired, donations may be made to the  
Canadian Cancer Society.

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1	W	K	R	P	5	E	G	A	D	9	R	A	S	12	T	A
14	O	N	E	L	15	M	O	W	N	16	O	N	T	A	P	
17	N	O	M	A	18	D	C	O	W	D	19	I	S	E	A	S
20	C	A	N	O	E	D	21	D	A	M	N	S				
22	U	K	R	23	J	E	T	24	S	K	I	26	I	D	E	27
28	P	E	R	29	I	O	D	I	C	N	O	30	T	A	B	L
31	C	R	Y	O	32	P	I	T	C	H	33	Y	S	L		
34	N	S	F	37	Y	O	O									
39	T	40	B	41	E	R	43	A	44	O	45	46	K	47	48	49
50	N	O	V	51	C	E	P	R	E	S	52	53	I	D	E	N
54	T	O	O	T	55	A	T	O	M	I	C	56	A	D	S	
57	K	N	I	58	C	K	59	A	D	O	P	T	S			
61	V	O	L	L	E	Y	62	B	A	L	L	N	O	N	E	64
65	I	F	E	E	L	66	F	R	E	E	67	S	I	A	M	
68	A	F	A	S	T	69	F	E	S	S	70	T	K	T	S	

**LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS**

1	S	C	A	M	5	S	6	A	M	8	B	L	10	E	11	F	U	13	M
14	A	L	L	A	Y	15	L	O	U	I	S	16	I	S	A				
17	S	I	L	K	S	18	E	A	S	T	E	19	R	N	E	R			
20	H	O	W	E	21	G	E	T	I	T	22	E	D	I	T				
23	O	D	O	R	25	S	E	L	F	P	I	T	Y						
27	A	P	R	O	N	E	29	D	30	R	E	R	U	N					
31	W	O	K	32	T	E	E	33	D	34	C	A	L	G	35	36	O	N	
37	I	P	A	S	38	39	K	A	R	M	40	41	S	A	G	E			
42	F	I	N	N	43	A	L	I	C	E	44	E	L	L	E				
45	E	N	D	A	46	L	L	47	P	E	S	48	O	49	O	E	D		
50	N	P	E	P	51	A	52	D	A	D	53	O	D	S					
54	S	T	O	P	T	H	A	56	57	R	A	S	P						
58	T	O	P	E	A	C	R	E	S	60	61	I	H	O	P				
64	P	O	L	A	R	B	E	A	R	66	A	D	O	R	E				
67	A	T	A	68	C	E	L	L	O	69	M	E	L	O	N				
70	T	H	Y	71	A	T	L	A	S	72	I	S	E	N	D				

7	8	3	4	5	2	6	1	9
9	5	1	7	6	3	8	2	4
6	2	4	9	8	1	5	3	7
3	6	9	5	4	8	1	7	2
1	7	8	3	2	6	9	4	5
5	4	2	1	7	9	3	8	6
4	1	7	6	3	5	2	9	8
8	9	6	2	1	7	4	5	3
2	3	5	8	9	4	7	6	1



**OBITUARIES**



*In Loving Memory of*  
**Myrlene Leith Foster**  
(nee Potter)

Passed away suddenly on Monday, December 2, 2024.

Beloved wife of Leslie (Joe) Johnson. Dear mother of Yvette Foster, dear sister of Robert Potter and his wife Elva, Kenneth Potter and his wife Cathy, Katherine Ridsdale and her husband Leslie. Dear aunt of Irwin, Donna, Linda, Mike, Jill, Keith, Lee, Gary and Clare.

It was Myrlene's wish for no services, cremation has taken place.

Memorial Donations to the Ontario Lung Association would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.



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**EVENT**

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**NOTICES**

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS - **Sundays** - 10:30 am at St. Anthony's, 27 Victoria Street Haliburton. **Mondays** - 7:00 pm at West Guilford Baptist church. **Wednesdays** - 7:00 pm at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle St. in Minden - rear door. Thinking about alcohol. Thinking about stopping. We've been there. We can help!

AL ANON - WE CARE, are you troubled by someone's drinking? Meetings: **Thursdays** 7 pm, St. Anthony's 27 Victoria Street, Haliburton, and **Mondays** 7 pm at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle, Rear Entrance, Minden. 1-888-4AL-ANON (1-888-425-2666) al-anon.org. All are welcome.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS Admission is free and the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using. This meeting is for addicts only. New meeting in Haliburton that meets every **Thursday** from 7:30-8:30 pm in the Link Building. 5152 County Rd 21. For more information and an online version visit [www.cloana.org](http://www.cloana.org) or call 1-888-811-3887



# TheHighlander

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## Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

The Highlander will not be publishing  
Dec. 26, 2024 and Jan. 2, 2025,  
The Highlander Staff are taking a well earned break.  
Our office will be closed Dec. 20, 2024 – Jan. 6, 2025.

Thank you to all of our advertisers and supporters, we hope  
you have a festive Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

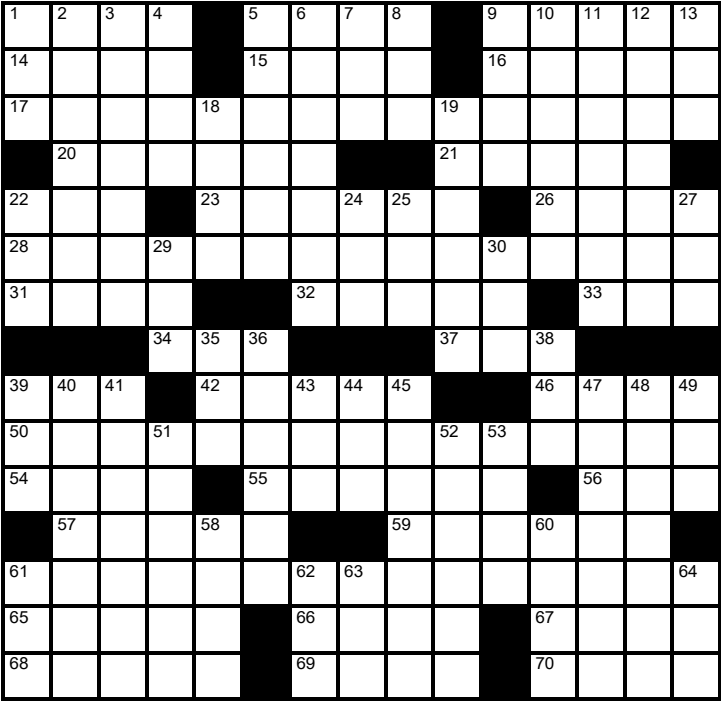


Think Negatively

by Barbara Olson  
© ClassiCanadian Crosswords

- Across**
- 1 Les Nessman's workplace, on a '70s sitcom
  - 5 "Yikes!"
  - 9 Bob Marley fan, maybe
  - 14 Feature of "Iama" but not "llama"
  - 15 Like a well-tended golf green
  - 16 "What's \_\_\_?" (brew pub query)
  - 17 Illness afflicting a roving bovine?
  - 20 Did one part of a portage
  - 21 Bewitches
  - 22 Kiev's country: Abbr.
  - 23 Sea-Doo, for one
  - 26 Mid-month, on a Roman calendar
  - 28 Person with occasional celebrity?
  - 31 Frozen: Comb. form
  - 32 Bark goo
  - 33 Fashion logo with intertwined initials
  - 34 Stamp on a bad cheque
  - 37 Start of a long-distance call?
  - 39 "Check later," on a sked
  - 42 The \_\_\_ Good Feelings (friendly political span)
  - 46 Meccano/Lego combo toy
  - 50 Country leader who's wet behind the ears?
  - 54 "Comin' through" sound, on a trike
  - 55 Type of energy or bomb
  - 56 Podcast annoyances
  - 57 "... \_\_\_ knack paddy whack ..."
  - 59 Takes on, as characteristics
  - 61 Nine-player team of setters and spikers?
  - 65 "\_\_\_ your pain" (empathic words)
  - 66 Word on a box of junk, maybe
  - 67 Thailand, pre-1932
  - 68 Pull \_\_\_ one (trick)
  - 69 Plead guilty, with "up"
  - 70 StubHub buys: Abbr.

- Down**
- 1 Came out on top
  - 2 Door bell alternative
  - 3 Take another trip down the aisle
  - 4 War room output
  - 5 Roasted and toasted, maybe
  - 6 Helpful Crimestoppers lead
  - 7 Cribside coo
  - 8 Fantasy role-playing game, for short
  - 9 Valentine bloom, to Valentino
  - 10 Effect of low hemoglobin
  - 11 Await instructions, say
  - 12 Mortar board dangles
  - 13 Jungle swinger
  - 18 Chop shop?
  - 19 Utter stupidity
  - 22 Product lines?
  - 24 \_\_\_-fi
  - 25 Horse-shaped chess piece: Abbr.
  - 27 "Pommes frites" sprinkling
  - 29 Charged particle
  - 30 Howe'er
  - 35 Minute bit
  - 36 Beyond coincidental
  - 38 Signed off on
  - 39 Loony Tunes blaster
  - 40 Schedule, as holiday time
  - 41 Fictional Prince Edward Island town
  - 43 Highrise dwelling: Abbr.
  - 44 Au, to a Spanish chemist
  - 45 Mares and jennies
  - 47 Obsessive tidy-upper
  - 48 Chair next to the aisle
  - 49 Old IBM PCs
  - 51 Some Scrabble vowel picks
  - 52 Moves edgewise
  - 53 iPhone image
  - 58 Gaelic speaker
  - 60 Maker of Oreo O's
  - 61 By way of
  - 62 Bud til the end
  - 63 Texter's R, often
  - 64 Logo ownership symbols



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	6		5					4

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**EAGLE LAKE • \$2,135,000**

- 3 bedroom + loft, 3 bathroom custom built home / cottage
- 136 feet shoreline with sandy beach and southwest views
- Screened porch, 2 stone fireplaces, master with ensuite & walkout
- Full finished basement with waterfront walkout
- Year round access, turn key ready



**LITTLE KENNISIS LAKE • \$919,900**

- Unique point lot offering panoramic views with over 400 ft waterfront
- Handpicked lot with long time family ownership
- Mixture of rock and sand shoreline, firepit at waters edge
- 2 bdrm insulated cabin + loft and screened porch in "grandfathered location"
- Bunkie, year round access, turn key and ready to enjoy.



**MCCUE CREEK • \$797,700**

- 3000 sq ft Viceroy style, 4 bedroom home
- 114 ft frontage of spring fed lake
- Wrap around deck, above ground pool
- 3 car garage with man door, shed, dock
- Full finished basement, turn key ready



**GULL LAKE • \$699,900**

- 2 bedroom open concept cottage with 1 bedroom bunkie
- 202 ft frontage on clean "weed free" deep water
- Sunset views, year round access, ample parking
- Grandfathered building location close to waters edge
- Close to Minden and all amenities, comes turn key ready



**BURNT RIVER • \$649,900**

- Parklike setting with 340 feet riverfront
- 2 separately deeded properties, 10 acres
- Cleared building site, septic approval, drilled well
- 30' X 50' barn with hydro, winter water & stalls
- Close to Kinmount Village, price + hst



**BOSHKUNG LAKE • \$549,900**

- 188 feet frontage on prestigious lake
- Expansive southwest views, rock & sand shoreline
- Ideal building site for walkout basement
- Easy level access, close to amenities
- Lakeside deck and shed, price + hst



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- Year round municipal road, drilled well, septic
- Close to recreation trails and lakes



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